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General Assembly

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Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction
New York, 19-23 August 2013

Draft format and annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

I. Draft format

1. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction is convened pursuant to paragraph 184 of General Assembly resolution 67/78.

2. In paragraph 184 of its resolution 67/78, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene, with full conference services, a meeting of the Working Group from 19 to 23 August 2013, to provide recommendations to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet the requirement for full conference services within existing resources.

Methods of work

3. The meeting will be presided over by two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Palitha T. B. Kohona, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and Liesbeth Lijnzaad, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, who were appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries.

4. The Co-Chairs prepared the present draft format for discussions in the Working Group in order to best facilitate its work.

5. The meetings of the Working Group will include plenary sessions, which will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 79 of General Assembly resolution 60/30, and closed sessions, as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure applicable to the meetings of the Assembly.

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Agenda and annotated agenda

6. The Co-Chairs have prepared a provisional agenda for the Working Group (A/AC.276/L.9). To assist delegations in preparing for the meeting, the Co-Chairs have also compiled an annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (see sect. II).

Outcome of the meeting of the Working Group

7. The Working Group has been mandated by the General Assembly, in paragraphs 183 and 184 of its resolution 67/78, to provide recommendations to the Assembly. To this end, the Co-Chairs will propose draft recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group. Delegations will have an opportunity to propose amendments to the draft recommendations prior to their adoption. The recommendations adopted by the Working Group will be made available to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session as part of the report of the meeting, which will be transmitted by the Co-Chairs to the President of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly.

II. Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

Monday, 19 August 2013

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

8. The meeting of the Working Group will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative.

9. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

10. The Working Group will be invited to consider and to adopt the agenda of the meeting, as contained in document A/AC.276/L.9.

Item 3. Organization of work

11. The Working Group will be invited to consider the organization of work of the meeting, as contained in the present document.

12. The schedule of agenda items is indicative, as agenda items may be advanced depending on the progress made in the discussions.

3-6 p.m.

Item 4. Consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, within the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and taking into account the discussions at the meeting of the Working Group in 2012, as well as the input of the intersessional workshops held pursuant to paragraph 182 of Assembly resolution 67/78

13. Under this item, delegations will be invited to continue to consider, together and as a whole, all issues under the mandate of the Working Group, taking into account the discussions at its meeting in 2012, as well as the input of the intersessional workshops held on 2 and 3, and on 6 and 7 May 2013, on the topics and in accordance with the modalities set out in the terms of reference contained in the annex to resolution 67/78, with a view to improving understanding of the issues and clarifying key questions as an input to the work of the Working Group.

14. The report on the work of the Working Group at its meeting in 2012 is available in the annex to document A/67/95. The output of the intersessional workshops, which consists of a summary of proceedings prepared by the Co-Chairs in accordance with paragraph 9 of the annex to resolution 67/78, is available in document A/AC.276/6. An electronic copy of the presentations and additional materials provided by the experts in the context of the intersessional workshops is also available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, pursuant to paragraph 10 of the annex to resolution 67/78.

Tuesday, 20 August 2013

10 a.m.-1 p m.

Item 4. Consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology, within the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and taking into account the discussions at the meeting of the Workin Group in 2012, as well as the input of the intersessional workshops held pursuant to paragraph 182 of Assembly resolution 67/78 (continued)

15. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 4.

3-6 p.m.

Item 5. Identification of gaps and ways forward with a view to ensuring an effective legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, within the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of paragraph 162 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and paragraph 181 of Assembly resolution 67/78

16. Under this item, delegations will be invited to consider the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In accordance with resolution 66/231 and in the light of paragraph 162 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and paragraph 181 of resolution 67/78, delegations will be invited to identify gaps and ways forward to effectively address those issues.

Wednesday, 21 August 2013

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 5. Identification of gaps and ways forward with a view to ensuring an effective legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, within the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of paragraph 162 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and paragraph 181 of Assembly resolution 67/78 (continued)

17. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 5.

3-6 p.m.

Item 5. Identification of gaps and ways forward with a view to ensuring an effective legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, within the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of paragraph 162 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and paragraph 181 of Assembly resolution 67/78 (continued)

18. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 5.

Thursday, 22 August 2013

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

[reserved]

3-6 p.m.

Item 6. Consideration and adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session

19. The Co-Chairs will propose draft recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group. Delegations will have an opportunity to comment on the draft

before adopting the recommendations to be transmitted to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraphs 183 and 184 of resolution 67/78.

Friday, 23 August 2013

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 6. Consideration and adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session (continued)

3-6 p.m.

Item 6. Consideration and adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session (continued)

Item 7. Other matters

20. The Working Group will consider any other matters that delegations may wish to raise.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting